

**DRAFT PRESS RELEASE**

The Department of Health today announced that Det Norske Veritas (DNV) had published the report *"Assessment of the Risk of Exposure to vCJD in Blood and Blood Products"*. This risk assessment had been recommended by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) in order to try and provide a better estimate of the theoretical risk of transmitting nvCJD infectivity by blood transfusion.

SEAC considered the final report at its meeting on 11 January. The Committee noted that it had been subject to extensive expert review. They commented that because of the many uncertainties surrounding this issue DNV had been faced with a demanding task and that although it had not been possible to make any firm prediction about the level of risk of infectivity from blood or blood products the report does provide a great deal of information about the sourcing, processing and use of human blood and blood products that could prove useful as more data emerges.

After consideration of the Report the Committee concluded that it saw no reason to change its earlier advice to Ministers regarding the safety of blood and blood products.

Commenting on the publication of this Report **DN Who SoS?** said;

"I am grateful to Det Norske Veritas for their work on producing this Report. As SEAC have commented it was not an easy task. It confirms the many uncertainties that we know surround this disease but shows that if nvCJD infectivity is present in blood or blood products then action should be taken to reduce any risk.

Although any risk remains theoretical the measures that the Government have put in place meet the earlier recommendations of SEAC, in relation to blood destined for transfusion, and the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, in relation to blood products, and will protect the public from exposure to nvCJD from these sources".

**Note for Editors**

Further copies of the Report can be obtained from Det Norske Veritas, Palace House, 3 Cathedral Street, London SE1 9DE.

The document can also be found on the Internet at [www.?????](http://www.?????)